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HEADQUARTERS
2877th REGIMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROVISIONAL)
APO 611, US ARMY

1 May 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Major Robert Bishop, 0916130, AC

TO : The Commanding Officer, 2877th Regiment

1. Interrogation of Major Robert Bishop, 0916130, AC, formerly Chief, I-2, Bucharest, was performed at this Headquarters on 30 April 1945 in order to substantiate or deny the following specific charges:

a. That Major Bishop had absolute disregard for the most elementary of security principles as laid down in Article 1, in the Espionage Act, in the Official Secrets Act, and in other regulations governing military security.

b. That Major Bishop aided or assisted in the departure of personnel from Romania in violation of Romanian law and the regulations established by the Allied Commission, Romania, governing travel control.

c. That Major Bishop made or accepted derogatory statements concerning the efficiency, ability and political beliefs of OSS personnel stationed in Bucharest.

d. That Major Bishop made use of United States Government monies (Special Funds) for the private purchase of goods for his own use.

e. That Major Bishop aided in the transport of valuable goods from Romania in violation of Romanian Excise laws and the Allied regulations governing currency control.

2. This interrogation was not performed on chronological basis, but rather to confirm or refute the above charges.

3. Disregard of Security Principles.

a. Stenman, Buchala (alias "Molly"). It had been reported that this clerk-typist made one additional copy of all her assigned work, which copy was taken from the copy for possible corrections." Major Bishop explained as follows: "This woman had previously been employed by the Standard Oil Company in Bucharest before the war, and came to him highly recommended by someone whom he cannot recall. No formal personnel history statement was ever prepared, nor was she vetted before employment. (Bishop stated he followed the same procedure he had used in Istanbul concerning the hiring of part-time or temporary employees, that is, no reference was made to source files other than those locally available.)

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At the time of Mr. Kalmy's inspection of the Bucharest X-2 unit, Bishop said he had determined Miss Stevman's behavior to be unusual, and that she was being watched. When it was found she was making an extra copy of her work, he dismissed her from her position. He claims she was assigned no work other than copying messages and similar material, and that the extra copy was never removed from her handbag before her departure. (Comment: Miss Stevman is now reported as employed by the Russian Military Mission, Bucharest).

b. Disposal of Classified Material. It has been reported that the Bucharest office had in their possession a shredding machine which was used for the disposal of classified material. Major Bishop explained as follows: Up to the middle of November all classified material was destroyed by burning. At the time of the establishment of offices in the Stefanu building, a German officer of the unit was found. This has been used since this date for the disposal of classified material. Major Bishop has no knowledge who put up the shredded paper nor where is its final destination. He was familiar with the provisions of AR 360-5 concerning the proper method of disposal, but claimed a shredder would be secure, for there were several that he knew of being used in Washington. He also stated that Major Kubler, then Security Officer for OSS, Bucharest had approved its use.

(M.W.)
c. Woberling, Imogene. It has been reported that this German woman was removed from the unit at the instruction of the unit, and remained away for several months during which time she associated freely with members of the unit at meetings, and on one occasion attended a party at which Allied officers were present. One of these officers asked this woman where she had been born, and she replied "California." Major Bishop explained as follows: Miss Woberling was removed from interment for interrogation and was released as she was the private secretary of Richter, head of the German SB in Romania. She was placed in quarters at Bucharest castle 4 miles and was under the supervision of Major Bishop, Army Section and Irving Kahn, and was supervised by Mrs. Schmidt in the adjoining apartment. Later in December, when No. 6 was executed as a killed by members of the unit, Miss Woberling took her meals with the other members and their guests and on the occasion of the unit New Year's Eve party at the apartment, she was permitted to attend this function to which several Russian officers had been invited. It was later reported to Major Bishop that when asked her destination by one of these officers, she replied "California." Major Bishop took no disciplinary action with her for this remark. (Comment: Miss Woberling was returned to interment in March after four months with the unit, and is at present still in custody).

4. Departure of Personnel from Romania.

d. Novak-Johnson, Elizabeth. A separate report has been prepared concerning this individual, however, Major Bishop was asked to state his connection with her departure. He explained as follows: On a basis of personal friendship and in gratitude for the services she had given the unit without remuneration, he took a great interest

In awaiting her departure, Major Gandy and I waited somewhat in regard to her security. He replied to us he personally considered her incapable. Upon ARAO clearance was given for her to leave Italy, he went with her to see Mr. Tracy, the British general in Hoch-
kreis, and assisted her to obtain a Dutch passport (Germann held her father, his of Dutch birth). This was necessary, in view of the fact that her Russian passport, obtained several years previously, had been taken to the British Legation by Lt. Spector (Connecticut), American Consul, then with ACOIS, Bonn, and was being held by the Russians until clearance was given. His rank depended on Capt. Spector's Russian clearance. In view of her close association with the Americans, and because of the questions about remaining in Germany, a conference was held between Major Bishop, Lt. Col. Major, and Lt. Spector (Connecticut, Bonn), Major Bishop being our, and Capt. John Sims Kuhn or Miss John, to whom the possibility of her leaving without clearance seemed the most natural course. Major Bishop's border was discussed. Major Bishop stated he gave no advice in regard to Lt. Spector's status that he was to carry his rank to Germany and that the OSS Mission cleared, and that due to his departure he had no knowledge that it had been accomplished until he was told of her arrival in Italy. He did give her a Letter of Introduction and instructions but stated that he had given those to all ranks in Major Bishop's unit who were leaving Italy.

b. Other possible paths. It had been reported that Capt. Kuhn's "alias" James W. Bishop, Major Bishop's name, was known to several of the agent personnel employed by the unit, were genuinely suspicious about their status, was the reason in view of the fact that the Americans, Capt. Kuhn and Mr. and Mrs. Tracy, came to Italy in and also assumed their positions from the Navy, as they were of Naval birth. Also, Lt. Spector's, the liaison officer for the unit and the American command, and a Major general, the Major Bishop or his unit who were leaving Italy.

8. Intelligence summaries, OSS personnel.

a. With Major Gandy, American. Major Bishop stated he followed Major Gandy's instructions, including the physical and economic situation in Italy. During his contacts with Major Gandy he said nothing concerning other OSS liaison officers, however, he did often relate that this would be required in view of the exception of the 2-3 missions. Major Bishop became convinced, first, that the 2-3 reports above-mentioned in the reporting function.

b. With Major Gandy, American. Major Bishop stated as follows: Mr. Petty had advised him that his expressed disqualification with OSS Reports Office, and felt that within the Reports Office was extremely lost in the political view. He can remember no statements in signs have been which was discriminatory.

c. With Major Gandy, American. Major Bishop

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stated as follows: Major Thomas Hogg, who is in the C-2 Section of the British Mission once stated that Madison and Roberts were Communists. No derogatory statements were made by Major Bishop or others of the unit to Major Hogg and his co-workers.

6. Use of Government Funds.

a. The Elgin Coat. It had been reported that a fur coat was purchased for one of the members of OSS, Istanbul, using gold coins carried by Major Bishop for operational purposes. Major Bishop explained as follows: Eighteen (18) mixed gold pieces were used to purchase a fur coat for Mrs. Helen Elgin, an employee of OSS Istanbul because of the advantageous exchange on gold as compared with lire or paper dollars. The coat was delivered to Istanbul, and at the time Lt. (jg) Dovington asked for an accounting of the gold in Major Bishop's possession, he had the accountability for this sum transferred to Istanbul. He later determined that this account had been settled.

b. Transport of Merchandise from Rumania. It was reported that Major Bishop had a quantity of fur skins in his luggage brought from Rumania. He explained as follows: He had borrowed a sum of money sufficient to cover the purchase of approximately two hundred (200) marten pelts from Abram Scorb, a Rumanian. Scorb loaned the money on the understanding that Bishop would have Scorb's uncle in New York sell the skins and deposit the proceeds in an account in the United States, to be used for Scorb's education when he later came to the United States. Bishop was asked whether the entire sum would go to Scorb's account, or just the equivalent of the money he borrowed. He replied the former was the case, that he was fond of Scorb and was trying to help him for no return other than possibly a fur coat for Mrs. Bishop. (Comment: The provisions of the Currency Control regulations were then explained to Bishop). As a matter of fact, he stated, no money actually changed hands, and that Scorb furnished him the pelts before he left Rumania for transporting to America. (Comment: Bishop was then advised of the regulations governing the transport of goods belonging to aliens, and the possible consequences of evading Rumanian customs examination of these furs which are at present at this Headquarters).

c. Other matters were put before Major Bishop including the report of his harboring two Germans in his residence. He explained as follows: At the time the Russian's proclaimed that all Germans in Rumania would be transported for forced labor, two of the unit's most valuable agents, Fritz Tsill and Lari Tsill (brothers) came to him for asylum. He thereupon asked Princess Olka, in whose house he was residing, to harbor them for several days.

d. In view of the foregoing report, it is recommended that appropriate disciplinary action be taken with Major Bishop before he may be given other assignment or be relieved from duty with OSS. This report and accessory papers should be placed before the Theater Counsel (or General Counsel) for action along the following alternative lines:

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- a. Court-Martial.
- b. 104th Article of War
- c. Demotion in Grade
- d. Reclassification

10. As Major Bishop's immediate Commander I desire to recommend that demotion proceedings be instituted before his departure from this Command. Such proceedings would be based upon the obvious inefficiency and lack of judgement displayed by this officer, and would not preclude administration of Court-Martial or other disciplinary action upon his return to Washington.

11. Major Charles W. Hostier, 0442428, AC, was present at the interrogation of Major Bishop.

GRAHAM KROWDER
Major, Infantry
Chief, I-2, Mante